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style at home

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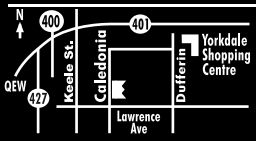

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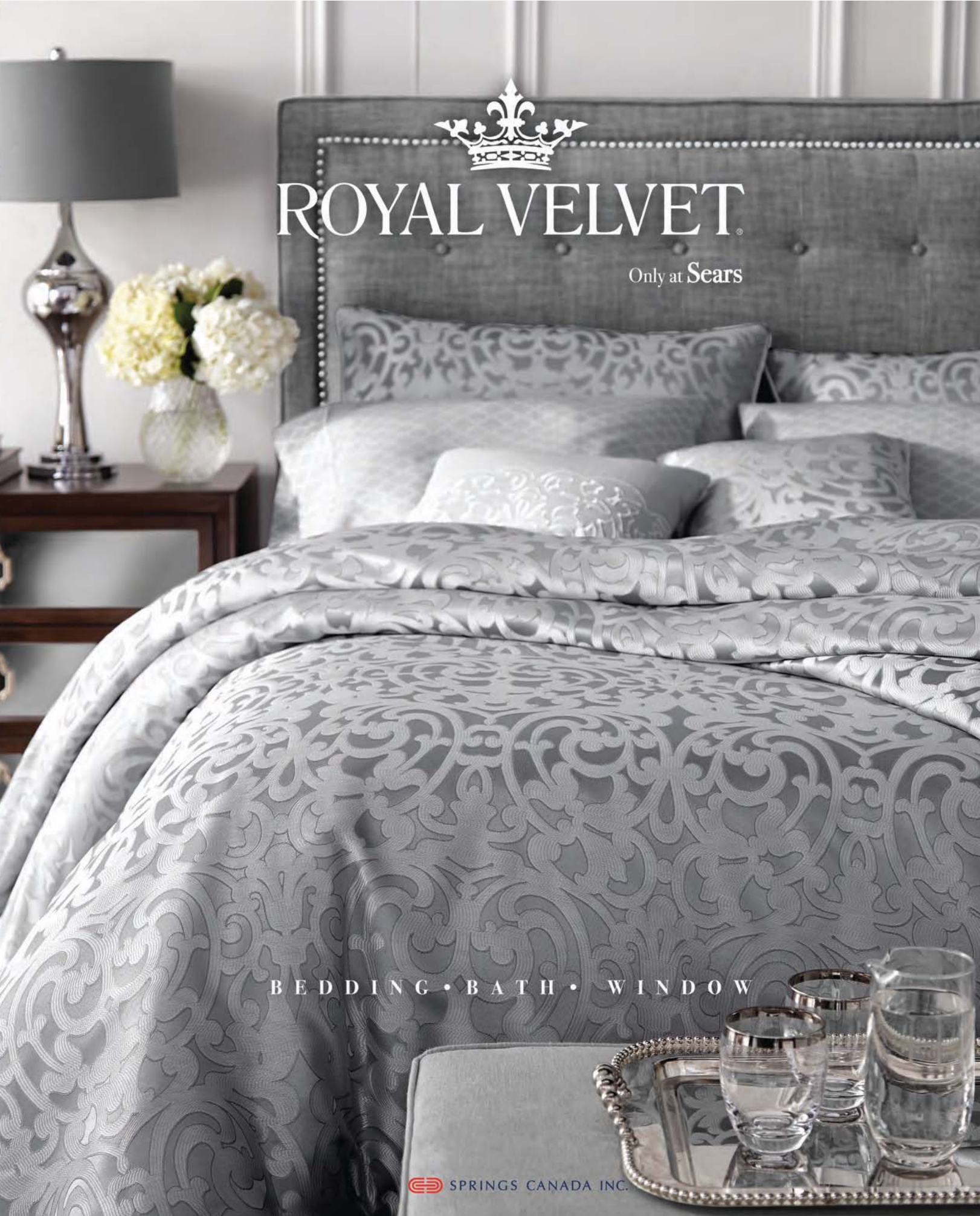
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styleathome DECEMBER 2015

Subtle festive touches in a living room are a merry sight for holiday guests.

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TABLET EDITION
Get *Style at Home* for your iPad, with additional how-to video content, bonus image galleries and more. Download it on the App Store today.

ON THE COVER
A lush and illuminated tree steals the show in a crisp all-white interior.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Gap Interiors/Clive Nichols

ON THE COVER
Our subscriber cover features Michael Bublé at home for the holidays.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Janis Nicolay

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WE'RE SINGIN' IN THE NEW YEAR!

We were thrilled to visit Canadian music icon Michael Bublé at his home in Vancouver to discover how he celebrates with his family over the holidays. Read all about it in our "Fine Tuned" story on page 84.

PARTY *TRICKS*

As anyone who's a Style at Home social media fan already knows, our team can throw a kick-ass party. Whether it's a baby bump, bon voyage or birthday celebration, this staff does it all, from decorations and DIYs to food and favours – and we love to share with friends. With that in mind, I polled the staff to find out their best tips for hosting a holiday get-together. Here are just some of their great ideas (you can find more inspiration at styleathome.com/hostesstips).

1. **COLLABORATE ON THE MENU.** For casual gatherings, ask family members and friends to each bring part of the meal. That puts less pressure on the hosts, so they can enjoy the night, too.

2. **OPT FOR A SIGNATURE COCKTAIL** and prepare a large pitcher of it to avoid playing bartender all evening.

3. **PACKAGE SOME OF YOUR HOLIDAY BAKING** in festive treat bags with handwritten notes as parting gifts for guests – it's an inexpensive and thoughtful gesture that'll be remembered.

4. **MANAGE YOUR TIME WISELY.** Try to put most of your effort where guests will appreciate it – there's no point in cleaning the linen closet for a cocktail party.

5. **BE REALISTIC.** Do one fantastic DIY that everyone will rave about rather than trying to do too much and having it go unnoticed.

6. **ALWAYS HAVE A BOTTLE OF WINE AND SOME MIXED NUTS** in your pantry over the holidays so you're ever-ready for drop-in guests.

7. **RENT YOUR DISHES.** It's totally affordable for a small celebration (plus there's no dishwashing required).

8. **GREET EVERYBODY.** It may seem overwhelming in a crowded room, but making each and every person feel welcome trumps even the tastiest finger food.

9. **CONSIDER YOUR GUESTS' DIETARY RESTRICTIONS** to make sure there's an option for everyone at the table. That being said, don't go overboard.

10. **PAY EXTRA ATTENTION TO YOUR BATHROOM,** which should be well-stocked and absolutely spotless.

Erin

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PHOTOGRAPHY, JANIS NICOLAY; CLOTHING, PINK TARTAN AT BAYVIEW VILLAGE; HAIR AND MAKEUP, INDIA DAYKIN

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INSIDE STYLE

LIKE Editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin and Jackie Kai Ellis, owner of Beaucoup Bakery & Café, bonded over a shared love of France at our Meet the Editors event at the Fairmont Pacific Rim hotel in Vancouver.

LIKE We admit that senior style editor Ann Marie Favot wasn't the *only* one feeling star-struck during our photo shoot at Michael Bublé's Vancouver home! See how he decorates for the holidays on page 84.

LIKE Associate editor Sara Cation had lots to chat about with the vivacious Genevieve Gorder. Read about what inspires the HGTV star on page 46.

GET SOCIAL

SHE'S **CERTAIN**

I've learned so much about my taste from reading *Style at Home* over the years. For example, I love a white kitchen with natural wood elements to give it some warmth, but I don't like black, grey or white counters. So that's what I've aimed for in my own renovation. And although I usually avoid an all-white look, I decided to paint my fireplace a warm white shade, which really helps brighten my living room.

SHIRLEYAN ENGLISH, LONDON, ON

ALL **THAT**

I've subscribed to *Style at Home* for several years and every time a new issue arrives in the mail, it's like Christmas! I almost invariably drop whatever I'm doing and go through the magazine with delight and anticipation. The October 2015 issue was no exception. "In With the New" (page 64) had great ideas for my dining area and High or Low (page 46) totally tricked me, as it often does.

PATSI LONGMIRE, VANCOUVER

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The writer of one of our favourite letters next issue will win a Palmer's **SKIN THERAPY OIL** prize package. The blend of 10 pure oils helps improve the appearance of fine lines, wrinkles and uneven skin tones.

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SWEET **SUCCESS**

I really enjoyed the September 2015 issue's Dessert of the Month (page 34). I made the Sour Cream Peach Buckle and took it into the office the next day. Everyone loved it so much, it was gone before lunch! Thank you for the delicious recipe.

INGRID RENNICK, VANCOUVER ISLAND, BC

COOL **MOVE**

I'd been saving your October 2015 issue for a quiet moment, and when it finally came, I savoured the magazine page by page. It's full of wonderful ideas to help me make the transition to cooler temperatures. And the Reno of the Month (page 40) has me dreaming of a new kitchen. I've been a subscriber for years and I must say this issue was amazing!

NANCY WEBB, LONDON, ON

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The writer of one of our favourite letters next issue will win a pair of cozy cable-knit **READING SOCKS** and a super-soft **READING THROW** from Indigo!

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style news

PRODUCER MORGAN LINDSAY | **TEXT** AMANDA ETTY

Monogrammed antiqued-nickel and polished-brass Hexagon **ICE BUCKET** with scoop, $125 US, Mark and Graham, markandgraham.com.

DECEMBER'S MUST-HAVE: *handsome ice bucket*

Classy on the outside, cool on the inside. Keep bottles of bubbly chilled in this monogrammed antiqued-nickel and polished-brass ice bucket, which adds a shot of glitz to the mix.

ILLUSTRATION, MICHELLE MORELAN; ROOM DESIGN, BIANCA SOTELO, AFABULOUSCHALLENGE.COM

SUITE LIFE

Grace your holiday table setting with **ELEGANTLY WHIMSICAL HOTEL-INSPIRED DINNERWARE AND SERVING PIECES** brought to you by West Elm's collaboration with iconic New York City-based home store Fishs Eddy.

Fishs Eddy Gilded **DINNERWARE & SERVEWARE,** from $12 each, West Elm, westelm.com.

gift idea

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These contemporary maple chef's and butcher's knives blend **GOOD LOOKS** (check out their gorgeous grain) with **SUPERB FUNCTION** (admire the sharp stainless steel blades).

The Federal Maple **KNIVES,** $129 per set, ShopAGO, shop.ago.net.

JACK BE NIMBLE

The Madison candle has a traditional turned design with a modern twist: It's cast entirely in wax, so it burns all the way down to an inch from the base and will positively glow on your dinner table.

Madison **CANDLES** in Black, $29 each, Revolution Design House, revolutiondesignhouse.com.

gift idea

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Spindleback #1 **CHAIR,** $1,600 US, Keating Woodworks, geoffreykeating.com.

gift idea

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Want to make happy hour a little bit more fly? Give these minty green porcelain coasters with assorted 24-karat-gold-lustre tropical birds a try. They're perfect for gifting, as the flock of four comes in a party-ready box.

Aviaria **COASTERS,** $78 US per 4-piece set, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

gift idea

PIE INSURANCE

If you're as serious about your **HOT-OUT-OF-THE-OVEN PIE** as we are, check this out: PieBox is a handcrafted reusable pine carrier designed to ensure your dessert gets to its destination in one scrumptious piece.

PIE CARRIER, $35 US, PieBox, piebox.com.

gift idea

IN THE BAG

Bring the wine to your next soiree in this foxy tote from Brooklyn-based Coral & Tusk, which **FEATURES AN EMBROIDERED CELEBRATORY MOTIF ON UNBLEACHED LINEN.** Cheers to that!

Raise a Glass **WINE TOTE,** $40 US, Coral & Tusk, coralandtusk.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, WILL ELLIS (WINE TOTE)

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NIGHT GARDEN

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Style at Home Collection queen cotton Westmount **DUVET SET,** $190, Sears, sears.ca.

RAISE THE BAR

Whether simple or luxurious, a bar cart is always ready to party and when fully stocked, it'll make your fete even more fabulous.

Powder-coated tubular metal and mirror Noir **BAR CART,** $899, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca; polished-stainless steel, acrylic and glass Cosmopolitan **BAR CART,** $1,784, Peridot Decorative Homewear, peridotdecorativehomewear.ca.

HAPPY-HOUR COOL

BIG-BASH BOLD

PRETTY PERCH

This table-height three-legged stool made on Fogo Island, Nfld., comes in five finishes and has a comfortable convex seat built for long, lingering meals.

Tamarack Three Leg **STOOL** with Clear Oil finish, $520, Fogo Island Shop, fogoislandshop.ca.

GOOD NEWS! MINTED, AN ONLINE DESIGN MARKETPLACE, NOW OFFERS COLOURFUL TABLE LINENS MADE FROM TEXTILES DESIGNED BY INDEPENDENT ARTISTS.

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PHOTOGRAPHY, MICHAEL NANGREAVES (BEDDING)

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clean your oven

Everything you need to know about getting this in-demand appliance clean – and keeping it that way. **PRODUCER** MARY LEVITSKI

The holidays are a busy time for your oven, whether you're making a turkey, gingerbread cookies, salt-dough ornaments or all of the above. Winning results require a clean appliance, as built-up grime can affect foods' flavour or, worse, lead to fires. Repeated heat will burn spills and splatters in place, so make a habit of wiping them after each use, once the oven has totally cooled (a sprinkle of salt will loosen the mess while the appliance is cooling). For a deep clean, make a paste by adding water to baking soda, and apply it generously to the oven's interior using a clean cloth; leave overnight. Wipe the surface using a damp cloth and scrape off large stuck-on bits with a spatula. If any grime remains, generously spray on white vinegar – it will react with the baking soda to work the dirt off – and wipe clean.

bath time

RACK ATTACK

Your oven racks work hard and, every so often, they could use a bubble bath – literally. Start by lining your bathtub with old towels to protect it. Place the racks on top and submerge them in hot water; mix in several generous squirts of dish soap. Let stand overnight to loosen dirt before wiping clean with a soft sponge.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Grease-carrying steam can get in between the door's interior and exterior glass panes. Cleaning this requires taking the door apart, so check your warranty to see if this service is covered or call in a pro.

DO

Be patient. Allowing cleaning solutions to sit for the full recommended length of time will minimize your scrubbing effort.

DON'T

Get any water or cleaning solution on the door gasket, as it damages easily.

what's your type?

GET TO KNOW YOUR OVEN'S BUILT-IN CLEANING FUNCTION (OR LACK THEREOF) BEFORE GETTING STARTED.

Self-cleaning: In an isolated cycle, extreme heat turns grime into ash to be wiped off with a damp cloth. Racks must be removed (and cleaned separately); commercial cleaners are prohibited.

Continuous cleaning: A chemical coating on the walls dissolves splatters during cooking. Avoid commercial cleaners (they may strip off the coating).

None: It can handle both homemade and commercial cleaning solutions.

EXPERT TIP

"Keep a baking sheet on the bottom rack of your oven to catch spillage. Then simply remove, clean and replace it."

–NATALIA BRONSTEIN, TEAM LEADER, ASPENCLEAN

cope with soap

Clean racks with a natural eco-friendly dish soap.

FRESH
Fruity meets herbal in the unexpected fragrance of this Canadian-made soap.

DISH SOAP in Green Apple & Basil, 700 ml, $5, Attitude, attitude-living.com.

CITRUSY
A highly concentrated formula means tons of suds.

The Honest Company **DISH SOAP** in White Grapefruit, 783 ml, $8, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

UNSCENTED
This scent-free option is gentle on skin thanks to aloe vera.

Hypoallergenic Ultra **DISH SOAP,** 740 ml, $5, Eco-Max, eco-max.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, JANIS NICOLAY

HE FIGHTS DIRTY *no matter how dirty* DIRTY IS.

NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE, TOUGH MESSES DON'T STAND A CHANCE WHEN MR. CLEAN'S MAGIC ERASER IS PART OF YOUR CLEAN ROUTINE.

WHEN IT COMES TO CLEAN THERE'S ONLY ONE Mr.

Wet before use. A rinse is required for surfaces that come in direct contact with food. Use as directed.

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simple scottish shortbread

During the *hustle and bustle* of the *holidays,* when everyone seems to be reaching for bigger and better, it's *lovely* to remember that some things never change.

A TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH SHORTBREAD COOKIE IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS. PURE, SIMPLE AND OH-SO SUBLIME, IT NEEDS NO ADORNMENT TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS. DO YOU SEE WHAT WE SEE?

RECIPE & FOOD STYLING
TANYA ENG

PHOTOGRAPHY
MAYA VISNYEI

PROP STYLING
ANN MARIE FAVOT

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1. Bake our Magic Cookie Bars
2. Snap a photo to match ours
3. Submit your entry at eaglebrand.ca/promotions The closest match WINS!

Magic Cookie BARS

PREP	BAKE	SERVINGS
8 MINS	25 MINS	24

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups (500mL) graham wafer crumbs
- ¾ cup (175mL) butter, melted
- 1 can (300mL) sweetened condensed milk
- 1⅓ cups (325mL) chopped pecans
- 1⅓ cups (325mL) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1⅓ cups (325mL) flaked coconut

PREPARATION:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C)
2. Combine graham crumbs with butter; press evenly onto parchment-lined 13- x 9-inch (3.5L) baking pan.
3. Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over crumb crust.
4. Sprinkle with pecans, chocolate chips and coconut; press down firmly.
5. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until lightly browned. Let cool completely and cut into bars.

Official Rules available at www.eaglebrand.ca. Open to individual legal residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in their province/territory of residence. The Promotion starts at 9:00:00 AM ET on November 4, 2015 and closes at 5:00:00 PM ET on January 8, 2016 (the "Promotion Period"). To enter the Promotion, an entrant will be required to: (i) bake Eagle Brand's Magic Cookie Bars (recipe available at www.eaglebrand.ca website); (ii) take a photograph of Eagle Brand's Magic Cookie Bars however your photograph must MATCH the photograph on the Promotional website. Limit one entry per household regardless of the method of entry and one prize per household One Grand Prize consisting of (i) $1,000 CDN issued in the form of a cheque; (ii) 24 personalized cans of Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk 300mL; (iii) your name and photograph appearing on the Eagle Brand website and within their e-newsletter. Approximate retail value (ARV) of the Grand Prize is $1,084.00 CDN. Five Secondary Prizes are available to be won each consisting of 24 personalized cans of Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk 300mL. ARV of each Secondary Prize is $84.00 CDN. All entries will be judged by a panel of Judges. Odds of winning a Prize depend on the total number and calibre of eligible entries received. ©/® Smucker Foods of Canada Corp. or its affiliates.

Another Vitamix Aha: fruit sorbet in seconds.

Now you can make frozen desserts straight from the blender. And the magic of Vitamix doesn't stop there. Its unrivaled performance also lets you create hot soups, pizza dough and more. Visit vitamix.ca to see why Vitamix is engineered to change your life.

Vitamix.

THE TRADITIONAL WEDGE SHAPE IS CALLED A PETTICOAT TAIL BECAUSE OF ITS RESEMBLANCE TO A LADY'S UNDERSKIRT.

Prepare vintage moulds by sifting icing sugar over them so the dough doesn't stick.

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 32 WEDGE COOKIES

- 1 cup unsalted butter
- ¾ cup superfine sugar, plus more for sprinkling
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 300°F. In a stand mixer using the whisk attachment, cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Reduce the mixer speed to low and add the flour, ½ cup at a time, scraping down the sides of the bowl after each addition. The dough is ready when it holds its shape when squeezed.

Separate the dough into four round balls of equal size and roll each into a ½" thick 7" disc. Score the top of each disc into eight equal wedges. (Alternatively, press each ball into a metal or wooden shortbread mould dusted with icing sugar and smooth the top with a rolling pin. Remove from the mould before baking.) Bake until the bottoms of the cookies are light gold, 20 to 25 minutes. Sprinkle the tops of the cookies with more superfine sugar while they're still hot; let the cookies cool on a rack before breaking into wedges to serve.

effortless ENTERTAINING

Wow your holiday guests by serving this deliciously festive cocktail. The Vitamix blender is your key to creating a variety of gourmet drinks and dishes, from main courses to sides to desserts like sorbets—even hot soups—with minimal time and effort. It's entertaining made elegantly simple. Cheers!

Cranberry Margarita

Yield: 6½ cups (1.5 L)
Total Time: 50 minutes
Difficulty: Intermediate

INGREDIENTS

Cranberry Jam:
¾ cup (75 g) fresh cranberries
¼ cup (50 g) granulated sugar
¼ cup (60 mL) water
2 tablespoons (30 mL) orange juice
1 teaspoon orange zest

Cocktail:
8 tablespoons (120 g) cranberry jam
2 ounces (60 mL) lime juice
4 ounces (120 mL) orange juice
6 ounces (180 mL) tequila
5 cups (1.2 L) ice cubes

DIRECTIONS

1. To make the cranberry jam, bring cranberries, sugar, water, and orange juice to a boil in a medium saucepan. Reduce the heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, until thick with jam consistency, about 30 to 40 minutes. Mix in the zest and let cool.

2. Place 8 tablespoons jam, lime juice, orange juice, tequila and ice into the Vitamix container in the order listed and secure lid.

3. Select Variable 1.

4. Turn machine on and slowly increase speed to Variable 10, then to High.

5. Blend for 35 to 45 seconds or until desired consistency is reached.

Find more holiday recipes at vitamix.ca

Vitamix

OPT FOR PLAYFUL PIECES. THESE COLOURFUL WILDLIFE PRINTS NOT ONLY LEND YOUTHFUL WHIMSY TO THE NURSERY BUT ALSO HAVE MAJOR STAYING POWER FOR WHEN THE CHILD GROWS OLDER.

PAINT WALLS IN A NEUTRAL SHADE TO CREATE THE PERFECT BACKDROP FOR SHOWCASING BRIGHT ACCESSORIES AND FUN, FESTIVE TOUCHES.

This baby's room is as calming as it is cheerful, making it the perfect transitional space for designer Erin Shearer's younger son. Here's how to achieve a similar look.

TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI

PHOTOGRAPHY VIRGINIA MACDONALD

timeless nursery

SCOUR SALVAGE SHOPS FOR TIME-WORN FURNITURE THAT TELLS A STORY, SUCH AS THIS ANTIQUE ROCKING CHAIR. IT'S ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO ADD CHARACTER TO A SPACE.

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NEW

It's like deodorant for your clothes.

New Downy Fresh Protect
Protect your clothes from odours. Just toss it in with your detergent and, like deodorant, it neutralizes odours all day long. So your clothes always smell great!

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◀ Watercolour Whale **PRINT,** from $15, White Doe Prints, white-doeprints.etsy.com.

▼ HBC wool **BABY BLANKET,** $125, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

▶ Väte **PENDANT LAMP SHADE,** 22″, $9, IKEA, ikea.ca.

get the look

TIMELESS NURSERY

◀ Felt Layered Snowflake **STOCKING,** $36, West Elm, westelm.com.

▼ Areaware Fauna Pico Fox **TOSS CUSHION,** $24, The Modern Shop, themodernshop.ca.

◀ Iron Kennedy **CRIB,** $849 US, RH Baby & Child, rhbabyandchild.com.

PREVIOUS PAGE

DESIGN, Erin & Co. Design, erinandco.com; Halo OC-46 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **CRIB,** Dear-Born Baby; **DRAPERY,** white **TOSS CUSHION,** Pottery Barn; **RUG,** Urban Outfitters; animal **PRINTS,** Michelle Morin; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Design Within Reach; fox **TOSS CUSHION,** Laura Frisk; **BABY BLANKET,** Hudson's Bay.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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*Based on co-marketing agreements.

PROBLEM

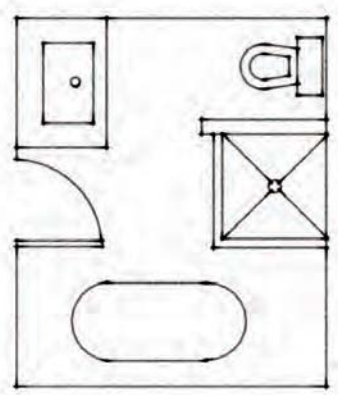
A very pink and functionally awkward bathroom

SOLUTION

Rearrange the elements to make room for a dream tub, taps and tile

FLOOR PLAN

80 sq. ft.



tall *order*

The beauty of designer Nicola Marc's modern-meets-traditional family bathroom is all in its proportions.

TEXT LESLEY YOUNG | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MONIC RICHARD

ABOVE Homeowner and designer Nicola Marc is grateful for the pre-existing skylight over the vanity, the only source of natural light in her bathroom. The custom-cut extra-long mirror draws the eye up; it was hung high enough that splashes won't mar its beauty.

DESIGN, Marc Gold Interiors, marcgoldinteriors.com; **CONTRACTING,** Entrepreneur S.C. & Fils; Cornforth White 228 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; Beauti-Tone White Dew FD065-0 **TRIM PAINT,** Home Hardware; **VANITY,** Wetstyle; **WALL TILES,** Ciot; **FLOOR TILES,** Ramacieri Soligo; **IN-FLOOR HEATING,** Flextherm; **FAUCET,** Batimat; **SCONCES,** Restoration Hardware; yellow **TOWEL,** Anthropologie; grey **TOWELS,** West Elm.

Designer Nicola Marc used her savvy eye to see beyond the layers of outdated decorating trends in this 1915 Montreal home. "When we bought it in 2013, a lot of original features were still intact, including the crown mouldings, wide baseboards and high ceilings," she explains. Nicola made sure those were preserved in a year-long whole-house renovation that took place before the family of four moved in. Among the rooms in most dire straits was the upstairs family bathroom, with its awkward door placement, super-tiny bathtub and jarring pink walls. "It wasn't conducive to a soothing bathing space," says the co-owner of Marc Gold Interiors. Nicola, who loves a relaxing soak, had already picked out her must-have item – a stunning sleek tub – so it was just a matter of working in the other elements.

The planning process

"I designed the bathroom around the scale of the bathtub," says Nicola. She opted to keep the toilet where it was to avoid the extra plumbing cost, but she moved the existing door to create a more logical entry point and to maximize usable wall space. Nicola wanted the shower separate from the tub and chose a low-profile tray and an all-glass enclosure to keep it as unobtrusive as possible. She had the glass walls raised up to lock in post-shower heat. "I find showers feel a little cold when you turn off the water," she says, so adding in-floor heating was also a must.

The design decisions

Nicola's second favourite item is the vanity; with its shiny chrome washstand base and white glossy countertop, it embodies the space's mix of classic and contemporary styles. To that end, she chose über-modern faucets with white tempered-glass handles that recall old-world porcelain versions. Nicola justified the pricey fixtures by saving some money on the tiles, which you would never guess are all porcelain and ceramic.

The result

Nicola loves her new family bathroom. Between taking care of the kids and her own long baths, she spends more time here now than she does in her master ensuite.

ABOVE The dreadful pink walls were painted over with "a soft stone colour that works well with the white elements in the space," says Nicola. A simple rack holds multiple towels, and the stool is handy for helping daughter Clara, 8, climb in and out of the bathtub.

BATHTUB, Wetstyle; **STOOL, TOWELS,** West Elm; **FAUCET,** Batimat; *Parc National du Bic* **ARTWORK,** Donna Griffith.

LEFT Nicola opted for open shelving because she enjoys creating little vignettes. Each family member gets a shelf (she plans to add one for her 20-month-old son, Luka).

SHOWER TILES, Ramacieri Soligo; **SHOWER TRAY,** Wetstyle; **SHELVES,** EQ3; **SHOWER FIXTURES,** Batimat; **BATH MAT,** West Elm.

FOR SOURCES,
SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Bed Basics

Making up a bed for overnight guests doesn't have to be a chore. Here's how to dress yours up beautifully (and painlessly). The end result? Bright-eyed and well-rested company.

PRODUCER CHRISTINE HANLON | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY VAN BERKEL

OUR TIPS

FOR MAKING THE PERFECT BED

ENLARGE IT
At 26 inches square, Euro pillows are great for reading or lounging. Try a print that coordinates with your duvet.

MIX IT
Experiment with saucy accent cushions to deliver a punch of pattern and scale.

TUCK IT
A folded duvet reveals a tucked-in coverlet and top sheet.

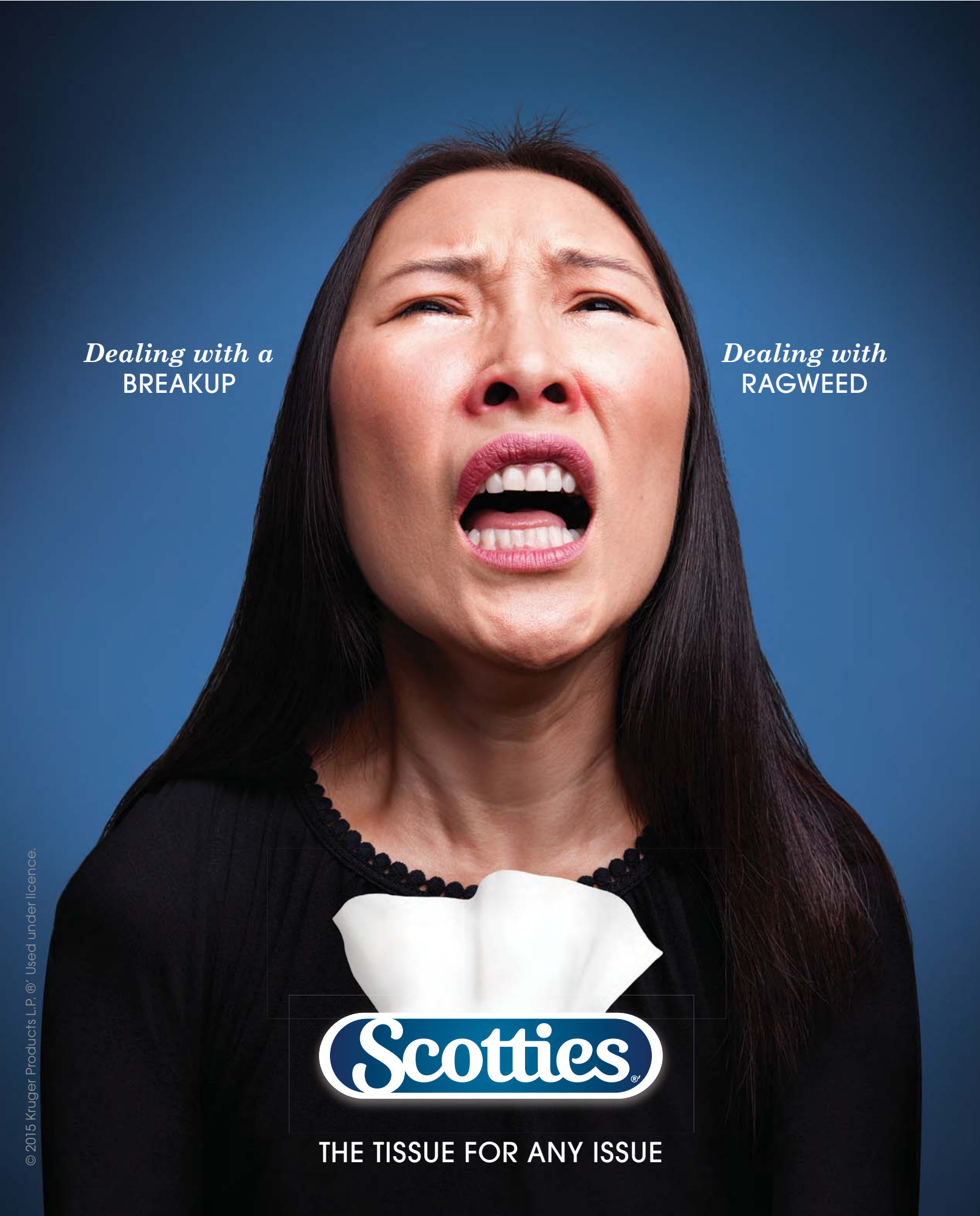
FLUFF IT
The charm of a duvet is that you rarely need to make the bed – just fluff and go!

LAYER IT
Extra texture is added with a cashmere throw at the end of the bed.

FINISH IT
A floor-length bed skirt completes the look.

DROP IT
A woven rug next to the bed adds warmth and is soft underfoot.

Turn the page for four more simple pillow arrangements.


Dealing with a
BREAKUP
Dealing with
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1 BED, 4 WAYS

Diamond-quilted Sham + Polka-dot Pillowcase + Soft-hued Lumbar Cushions

Diamond-quilted Sham + Cabana-striped Pillowcase + Solid Toss Cushion

Gathered Euro Sham + Alphabet-print Pillowcase + Polka-dot Pillowcase

Floral Toss Cushion + Woven-edged Lumbar Cushion + Polka-dot Pillowcase + Striped Lumbar Cushion

I INHERITED THE FLAT CHEST. I EARNED THE FLAT STOMACH.

SPECIAL K

NO MATTER
WHAT YOU GOT.
OWN IT

#OWNIT

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genevieve gorder

Watching her on shows from TLC's *Trading Spaces* to HGTV's *Dear Genevieve* (among many more), we've loved Genevieve Gorder's soulful, playful style. So we sat down to chat about what inspires her...and let her inspire us!

PRODUCER SARA CATION

THE BIG START

When Genevieve was asked to audition for *Trading Spaces* (after making a name for herself on MTV), she didn't react as positively as you'd think. "I was like, 'No! Interior design is so lame.' I had an idea of who that lady was, and she was *not* chic. I had watched *Designing Women*, and I wasn't that girl. I wasn't Dixie Carter with the big scarf and frou-frou hair, holding a mint julep. Interiors didn't feel cool back then. And I didn't want to get into something uncool," explains Genevieve. "But once I saw how creative it could be and how much you could do with an approachable amount of money, I was very interested."

GLAMOUR SHOT

HGTV STAR AND DESIGNER EXTRAORDINAIRE GENEVIEVE GORDER.

PHOTOGRAPHY, LAUREN CREW (PORTRAIT), CHRISTOPHER AMARAL

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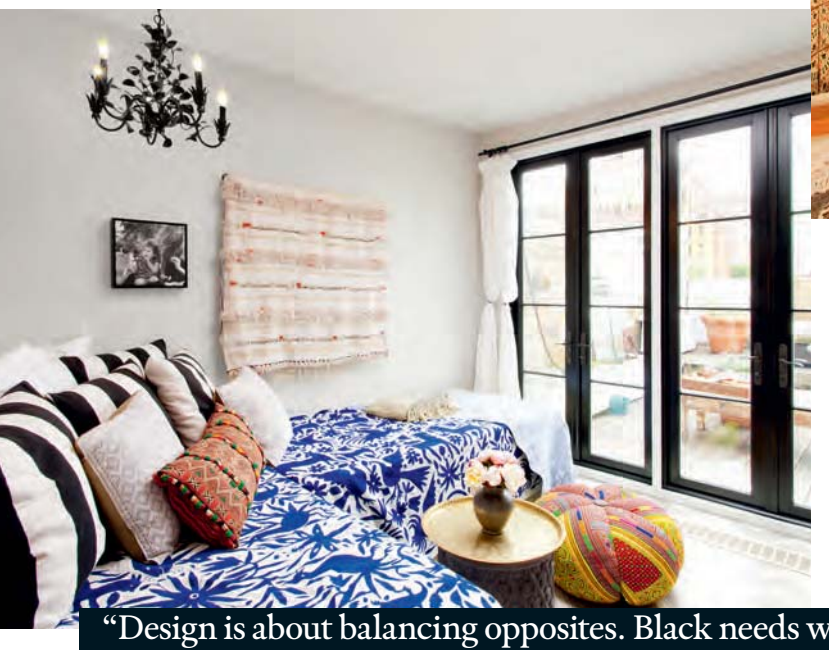
DESTINATION INSPIRATION

"Inspiration is everywhere. It can be in a song or in my bowl of soup," says Genevieve. But to really fuel her creative tank, she travels – extensively. "If you stay in one place, that's all you can create from. You have to fill your head with other lands – smell, taste and see them first-hand." What's inspiring her now? "I go where the cockroaches have just left. That's the design circuit. The artists go before anything pretty happens. So Detroit's been really hot. And Mexico City," she says. But she also has her favourite spots: Scandinavia and northern Africa. "I love that pairing." (Which is obvious in her Moroccan-inspired bathroom shown at right and the sitting area in the room below.)



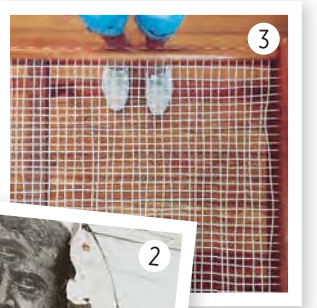
DETROIT DESIGN

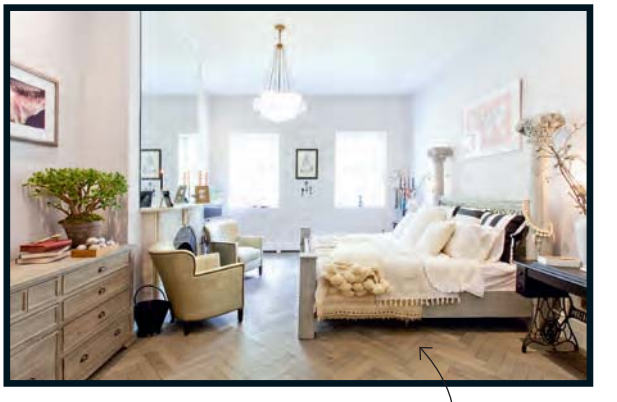
Instagram photos from a trip to Detroit this summer: **1** "Morning. Let colour reign," Genevieve captioned this shot of a wall mural in Corktown; **2** "My floor. On ceiling. Dopeness," she quipped about this restaurant.

"Design is about balancing opposites. Black needs white; curves need lines; masculine needs feminine. Layer them until they feel right."

MEXICAN MINUTE

Instagram shots from Genevieve's trip to Mexico City this fall: **1** Genevieve hashtagged this one #MexicoCity #DesignCity; **2** Artwork she spotted on a city corner; **3** A hand-strung bench Genevieve saw in what she calls "The Brooklyn of Mexico City."





IN WITH THE OLD

THE NIGHTSTANDS IN GENEVIEVE'S MASTER BEDROOM ARE MADE FROM ANTIQUE SEWING TABLES, ONE FROM EACH OF HER GREAT-GRANDMAS.

PHOTOGRAPHY, CHRISTOPHER AMARAL

Ripe for change

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DINING IN STYLE

THE DINING AREA OFF GENEVIEVE'S KITCHEN IS KEPT CASUAL VIA MISMATCHED FURNITURE AND A LONG ZINC-TOPPED TABLE MADE BY A LOCAL BLACKSMITH.

THE SMART KITCHEN

"We're entering the era of the smart home," says Genevieve, "and Samsung is one of the leaders in innovative technology for appliances, like fridges with customizable temperatures for storing food. It's not about getting bigger. It's about using space more wisely." Right now, she's super into black stainless finishes – just check out the stunning stove in her kitchen, pictured below. "But appliance finishes don't have to match," she says. "I don't match anything – I'm all about mixed metals. We don't dress like that, so why would we style our house like that? It gets weird when your curtains match your garbage can."

"I used to think interior design was so lame!"

CHEZ GENEVIEVE

"Pomegranates, hydrangeas and Marimekko: dinner at my house," is how the designer captioned this Instagram snapshot.

COMING UP

Genevieve has multiple product lines launching between this fall and next spring – only a few of which she could share with us. "I've finally reached a point where people take me seriously – I have longevity, and people trust me," she says. "I've earned this moment. I've wanted to do these product lines for so long, but either the market or my age didn't line up. And now it's time – it's time to do it all."

"Instagram is my true story."

SNEAK PEEKS

Genevieve's Instagram has been abuzz lately with snippets of upcoming collections we can't wait to get our hands on: **1** Genevieve Gorder for Capel Rugs; **2** "Pompoms for everyone in every colour everywhere," Genevieve wrote about her new sheet collection for Genevieve Gorder Home; **3** The Frida bed (inspired by Mexico) for Genevieve Gorder Home.

PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF HGTV (KITCHEN, DINING ROOM)

FOLLOW GENEVIEVE'S DAY-TO-DAY MUSINGS @GENEVIEVEGORDER.

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high OR low?

Freemags.cc

We designed a Deco-inspired powder room on both a Gatsby and a Carraway budget. Can you tell the difference?

PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE

TEXT MARY LEVITSKI

PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL NANGREAVES

$477

1 Paper & Ink Coastal Chic Lace Doily **WALLPAPER** in CO10412, $159 per double roll, through designers, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics, crownwallpaper.com.

$1,102

2 Hudson Valley Lighting 1-light brass Sanford **SCONCES** in Polished Nickel with silk shade, $551 each, Sescolite, sescolite.com.

$1,046

3 Mother of Pearl **MIRROR,** 30″, Cocoon Furnishings, cocoonfurnishings.ca.

$680

4 Keefe widespread cast-brass **FAUCET** in Polished Chrome, DXV, dxv.com.

$705

5 Town Square 3-hole fireclay **PEDESTAL SINK,** 24″, American Standard, americanstandard.ca.

$1,615

6 Enamelled-glass mosaic Hexagon **FLOOR TILES** in White, Cobalt Blue and Light Blue, 2″, $19 per sq. ft. each, Saltillo Imports, saltillo-tiles.com.

$50

7 Cotton terry cloth **BATH TOWEL** in Off-white with linen border in Natural, per pair, Zara Home, zarahome.com.

$48

8 Embroidered-linen Honeycomb **HAND TOWEL** in White & Silver, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com.

$129

9 Valsan brass Porto **TOWEL BAR** in Chrome, 20″, Upper Canada Specialty Hardware, ucsh.com.

$95

10 Tom Dixon poured Eclectic **CANDLE** in brass vessel with marble lid, Medulla & Co., medullaco.com.

HIGH & LOW Cloud Cover OC-25 **WAINSCOTTING PAINT,** Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca; blue polka-dot **HAND TOWEL,** Article 27, art27.ca; **LANTERN,** HomeSense, homesense.ca; **WALL HOOK,** Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

$420 US

1 Laundry Studio Diamante **WALLPAPER** in Turquoise, $140 US per double roll, Hygge & West, hyggeandwest.com.

$64

2 UberHaus metal Naples **SCONCES** with fabric shade and faux crystals (removed), $32 each, Rona Home & Garden, rona.ca.

$119

3 Aluminum-bordered Ronglan **MIRROR,** 32″, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$460

4 Town Square widespread cast-brass **FAUCET** in Polished Chrome, American Standard, americanstandard.ca.

$520

5 Fitzgerald 3-hole fireclay **PEDESTAL SINK** in Canvas White, 24″, DXV, dxv.com.

$425

6 Ceramic Hexagon **FLOOR TILES** in White and Black, 1″, $5 per sq. ft. each, Saltillo Imports, saltillo-tiles.com.

$48 US

7 Cotton terry cloth Linen-edged **BATH TOWEL** in White, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

$25

8 Vintage monogrammed linen **HAND TOWEL,** Putti Fine Furnishings, putti.ca.

$43

9 Moen Iso steel **TOWEL BAR,** 18″, Rona Home & Garden, rona.ca.

$18

10 Illume poured **CANDLE** in glass vessel, Indigo, indigo.ca.

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Brass and glass Callie **BOX,** $104, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com; large cotton Fouta **BATH TOWEL,** $98, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com.

anything but dry

Look for uncommon details like pleats.

FOR A SPECIAL TOUCH, LAYER **HAND TOWELS** IN VARIOUS MATERIALS AND TEXTURES WITH UNIQUE DETAILS, SUCH AS PLEATS, FRINGES OR EMBROIDERY. STICK TO A SINGLE PALETTE FOR UNIFORMITY.

1 Cotton terry cloth Heather Fringed in Oatmeal, $24, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com; **2** cotton terry cloth in Off-white with linen border in Natural, $20 per pair, Zara Home, zarahome.com; **3** cotton terry cloth Linen-edged in White, $28 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com; **4** fringed-cotton honeycomb-woven Fouta in Powder Blue, $22, **5** vintage linen with crocheted edge, $295, **6** Antique-French-linen with vintage-linen pleated edge, $80, **7** vintage monogrammed linen, $30, Putti Fine Furnishings, putti.ca; **8** embroidered-linen Tangier in Oat & White, $48, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com; **9** cotton terry cloth jacquard Isaac Floral Sculpted in White, $30, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com; **10** cotton terry cloth jacquard, $14 per pair, Zara Home, zarahome.com.

BAR AWARE

Racks and hooks are great hanging options, but consider a **towel bar,** whatever your price point. It allows plenty of ventilation for speedy drying, so your towels stay fresh.

HIGH

$216

Samuel Heath brass Xenon in Polished Chrome, 18", Ginger's, gingers.com.

$129

Valsan brass Porto in Chrome, 20", Upper Canada Specialty Hardware, ucsh.com.

$58

Trinsic metal in Chrome, 18", Delta, deltafaucet.ca.

$43

Moen Iso steel, 18", Rona Home & Garden, rona.ca.

LOW

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deco divas

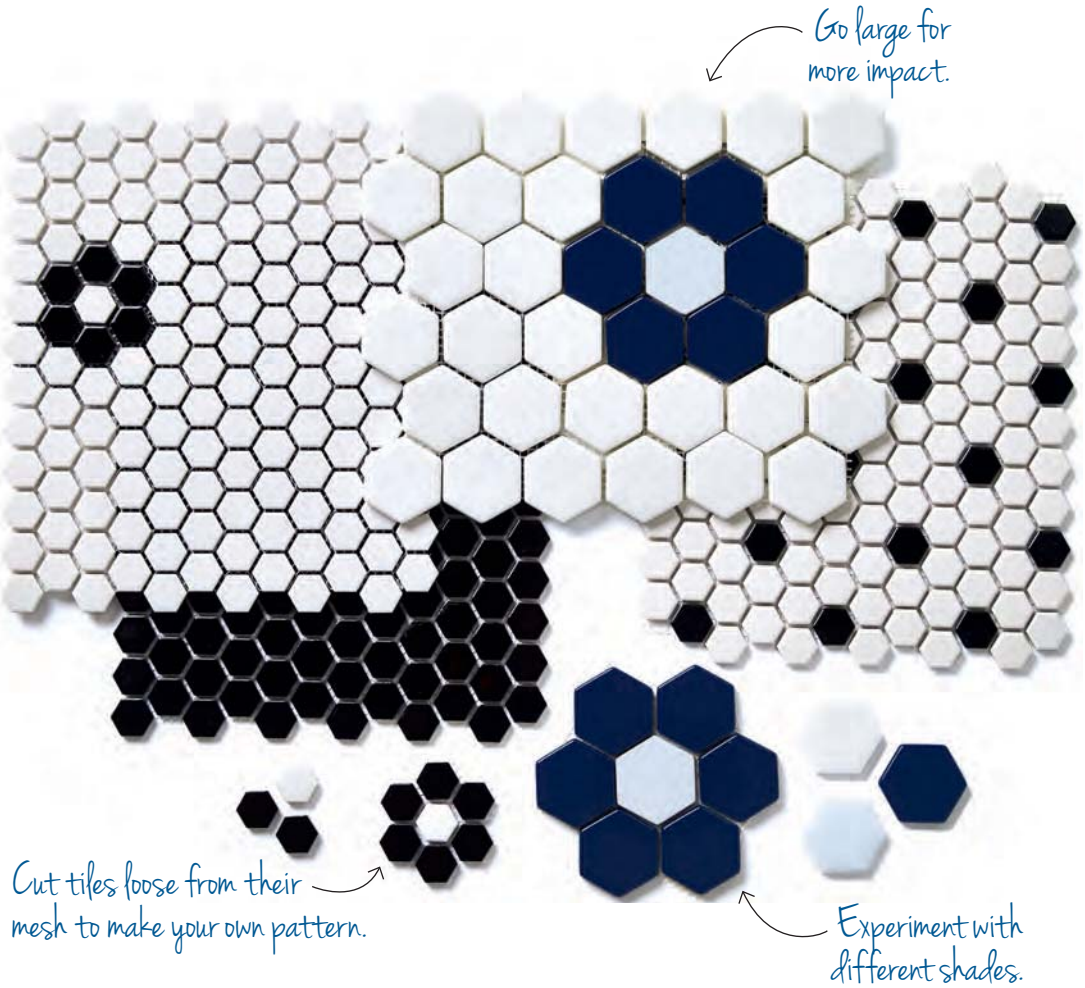
THE STARS OF OUR HIGH AND LOW POWDER ROOMS ARE THE STATUESQUE ART DECO-INSPIRED **PEDESTAL SINKS** (THESE GALS HAVE GOT SOME GAMS!). THOUGH THEIR SILHOUETTES ARE QUITE DIFFERENT, EACH EMBODIES THE CELEBRATED GLAMOUR OF OLD HOLLYWOOD AND MAKES FOR ONE LAVISH LAVATORY.

FROM LEFT Town Square 3-hole fireclay, 24", $705, American Standard, americanstandard.ca; Fitzgerald 3-hole fireclay in Canvas White, 24", $520, DXV, dxv.com.

mosaic muse

When the first residential bathrooms began appearing around the turn of the last century, the floor covering of choice was **mosaic tile.** The diminutive size of the tiles – an inch or so wide – suited the scale of the generally cramped spaces and allowed for a wide variety of patterns, which ranged from simple to intricate. To lend our powder rooms that signature old-world charm, we recreated the look by installing hexagonal tiles in a scattered flower motif. The Low features basic one-inch black and white tiles, while the High comprises bolder two-inch white, navy and powder blue ones. We combined segments from single-colour mesh sheets, but you can buy a sheet with a pre-set pattern (see far right) for easy installation. The options are as pleasantly plentiful as ever.

FROM LEFT Ceramic Hexagon in White and Black, 1", $5 per sq. ft. each, enamelled-glass mosaic Hexagon in White, Cobalt Blue and Light Blue, 2", $19 per sq. ft. each, Saltillo Imports, saltillo-tiles.com; porcelain Metro Hex in Matte White with Black Dot, 1", $6 per sq. ft., The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.



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With heaps of country character enticing all to curl up and stay awhile, this Swedish family abode will inspire you to live simply this season.

rustic rituals

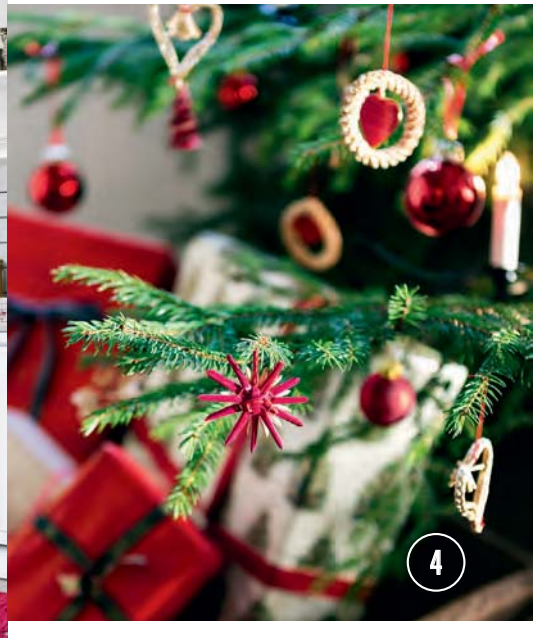
TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI

PHOTOGRAPHY CARINA OLANDER

STYLING ANNA TRUELSEN

WITH FILES FROM ANNA TRUELSEN

Nestled deep in the Swedish countryside lies a 1,700-square-foot family home that embodies something special – particularly come Christmastime. The enchanting 1880s farmhouse, which is home to Frida and Harry Jolsgård and their two young children, doesn't require shiny baubles or other festive fixtures to be heard; instead, its traditional architecture and storied past do the talking, while simple seasonal adornments serve to reinforce its year-round charm. It's no wonder the homeowners have declared it the place they intend to spend a lifetime. Here, we draw inspiration from their rustic Scandinavian retreat to help your space graduate from merry to memorable this December.



1. BRIGHT SIDE On the windowsill sits a pyramid-shaped candelabra – a traditional Swedish decoration that provides a warm, welcoming glow during the long winter months and signals that the Christmas countdown has begun. There's also no need for artwork when the outdoor view is akin to a painting.

2. SCARLET FROSTING It doesn't get much more Scandinavian than a wintry white scheme combined with wools and wooden elements (the rustic trestle table is a stunning showpiece). However, it's the hits of red in the toss cushions and runners that add an extra layer of warmth and bring this kitchen to life.

3. NATURE WALK For their holiday party, the homeowners perked up place settings with apples and fir sprigs to continue the classic red and green palette to the tablescape. Every single element, including the burlap napkins and the potted tree centrepiece, speaks to the home's rustic and earthy style.

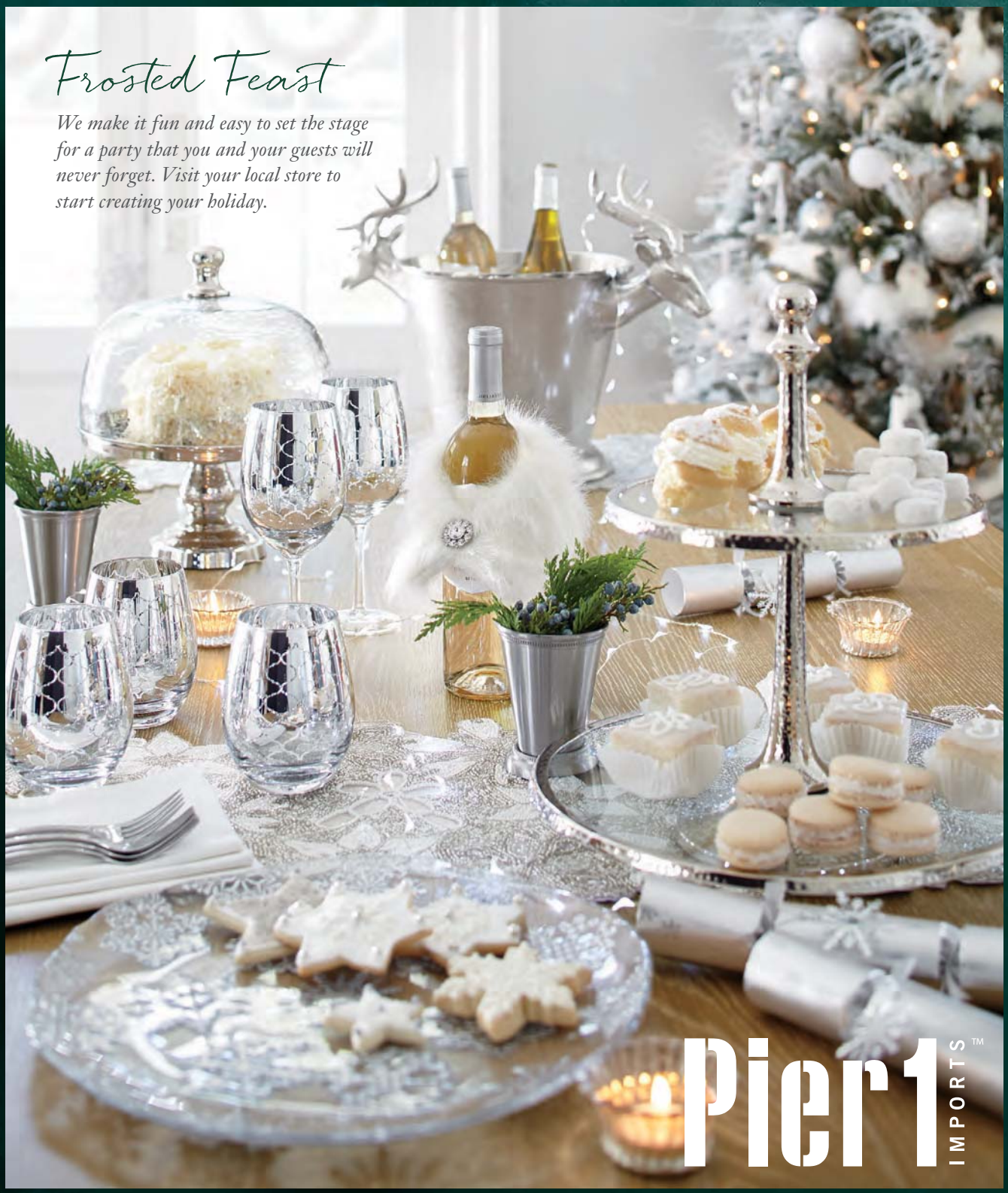
4. TRADITIONAL TRINKETS A sparse Christmas tree is given new life when adorned with simple ornaments, such as glistening red balls and tiny straw stars. Electric candles take the place of string lights, lending an elegant vintage look.

5. STAR PLAYERS The farmhouse's country chic bathroom boasts a black and white scheme that lets subtle seasonal accents pop. The petite tree, red glass candlestick and large hanging star in the window work as one to inject the space with festive flair.

6. CABIN FEVER Take one peek at this lodge-like bedroom and you'll wonder how the homeowners ever manage to leave. Wooden features, from the plank ceiling and flooring to the well-worn armoire, add an abundance of warmth and texture, which are essential this time of year.

7. FIRST BLUSH Fitted with red and white sheets, the bed becomes all the cozier when seen as an escape from the chilly outdoors. The corresponding pillowcases were repurposed from old towels.

8. APPLE BOBBING Red apples dangle delicately from a branch that's bedecked with fresh fir boughs. The whimsical adornments mimic sparkly ornaments hanging from a tree.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Homeowner Ellie Metrick (left).

CHIC CENTREPIECE
Decorative branches adorned with Hanukkah-themed ornaments offer an artistic take on tradition.

1

the eighth crazy night

PRODUCER JESSICA WAKS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY BRANDFORD

2

Hanukkah is a holiday renowned for its rich symbolism and traditions, but homeowner Ellie Metrick also sees it as an opportunity for elegant entertaining. As a great-granddaughter of the founder of Toronto decor destination Elte, Ellie has a natural flair for playing the fabulous host. With the help of her decorator friend, Jessica Waks, she placed a contemporary spin on the holiday's age-old customs for a crafty cocktail party on the last night of Hanukkah. Here are 10 fresh ideas to inspire your own soiree.

s[u]preme couch potato

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3

4

1. BRANCH OUT Homeowner Ellie Metrick's warm and inviting living room is the perfect spot for an informal Hanukkah gathering. A centrepiece of decorative branches adorned with ornaments and nestled into a glass vase filled with gelt (foil-wrapped chocolate coins) acts as the focal point.

2. SEE STARS A Bundt cake baked in a special Star of David-shaped pan is ready to be served on the painterly blue appetizer plates sitting beside it.

3. DRAW YOUR CARDS The modern and sculptural silver menorah holds colour-blocked candles that set Ellie's Carrara marble kitchen countertop aglow. Surrounding it are her homemade party invites, crafted using rubber stamps and textured paper to produce a pop art take on some of Hanukkah's quintessential symbols: the dreidel, menorah and Star of David.

4. EAT A LAT(KE) Fried potato pancakes called latkes are served at Hanukkah celebrations as a nod to the miracle of a single day's worth of oil burning for eight nights in the Temple of Jerusalem in the second century BCE – and they're also incredibly tasty and easy to whip up when company comes over. Ellie likes to garnish hers with sour cream, sea salt and chives, but for a sweet spin on the same treat, try topping with applesauce.

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6. CREATE EYE CANDY Hanukkah meets Willy Wonka in this dazzling display, where retro rock candy in berry blues and icy white gets propped up in a vase full of silver-wrapped gelt.

7. SET THE BAR What would a cocktail party be without a fully stocked bar cart? Ellie uses hers to reinforce the palette: The clean, contemporary lines of the chrome and glass cart play off the graphic blue and white abstract artwork above it.

8. KNOW YOUR SWEET SPOT Ellie serves bite-sized nibbles both savoury and sweet – like the *sufganiyot*, which she reimagined as donut holes in lieu of the typical large jelly version – on her sleek minimalist dining table, perfect for guests to gather around. The ethereal starburst chandelier (shown on the following page) adds to the festive vibe.

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Serving simple cocktails and finger foods means Ellie gets to focus on spending time with her friends.

CUSTOM COOKIES
Dreidel and Star of David-shaped sugar cookies iced in bright white and turquoise continue the colour scheme.

9. LIGHT IT UP Ellie created traditional Hanukkah decor out of atypical everyday pieces. This menorah was easily fashioned from white taper candles, glass votive holders and blue sand – all inexpensive dollar store finds. Though the lighting of the official menorah is steeped in tradition, this ersatz option offers Ellie's guests a chance to participate and get into the spirit.

10. BAKE YOUR MARK Here's a simple yet stylish party favour: Cookies in symbolic shapes in the vibrant blue and white palette. Guests can snack on them while visiting or take a few home for a tasty midnight treat.

KITCHEN CABINETRY, IKEA; **SECTIONAL, COFFEE TABLES, BAR CART, RUG, CHANDELIER** (in dining area), blue **PENDANT LIGHTS, ARTWORK, TOSS CUSHIONS, ICE BUCKET, DECANTERS, TRAY** (with rock candy), **COCKTAIL SHAKER,** Elte; **DINING TABLE, DINING CHAIRS,** Elte Market; **FAUCET,** Ginger's; **BRANCHES,** dreidel **PLATTER & STAMP,** Star of David **PLATES,** Crate and Barrel; Star of David **CAKE PAN,** Williams-Sonoma; silver **MENORAH,** William Ashley China; silver **WRAPPING PAPER, RIBBON,** Creative Bag.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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TEXT SARA CATION
PHOTOGRAPHY DONNA GRIFFITH
STYLING STACY BEGG

FRONT *and* CENTRE

An elegant and edgy entryway goes *au naturel* to welcome guests to an intimate fete so fabulous they'll forget to explore the rest of the house.

For designer Barbara Milner,

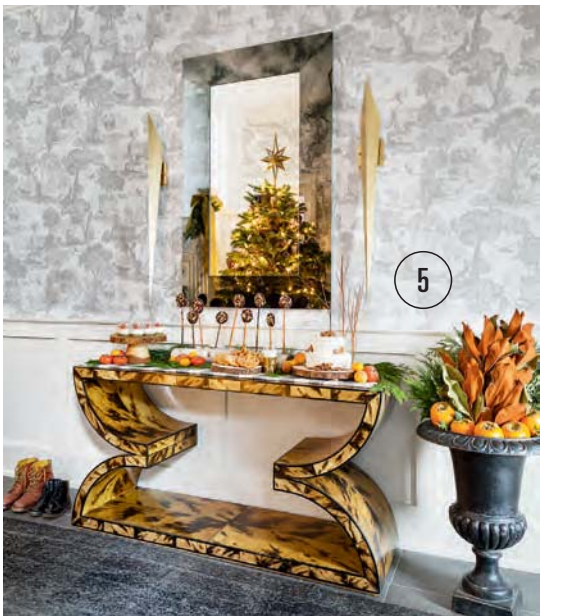
effective design is all about the fleeting moments, like the smile that spreads across your face the second you walk through the door and into a stunning space. That's why Barbara never overlooks the entryway – especially the one in her Toronto home, considering its 12-foot-high ceiling, standout staircase and original fireplace. This year, she's chosen the area as the centre of her spectacular holiday decor, which blends refined elegance with rustic woodsiness. Here, Barbara shares her seven secrets to entryway success.

1. GET REAL "I wanted a Christmas tree that you could happen upon in the forest," says homeowner and designer Barbara Milner. So she strayed from the glam and glitz and focused on fashioning a natural appeal that didn't feel crafty. "I was going for fuss-free...and yet I fussed so much," she adds.

2. PICK YOUR MOMENTS In keeping with the earthy elegance of her tree, Barbara wrapped the gifts in brown kraft paper – "I love the back-to-basics understated feel of it," she says. "But, as with anything, you choose your moment to make a statement." Here, it's all about the sumptuous satin ribbons.

3. GO GROCERY SHOPPING Unusual and imperfect yet bright and seasonal, persimmons are the perfect accents for this natural style. Strewn along the mantel, they look like they're about to be foraged by the vintage taxidermied pheasants above.

4. CUSTOMIZE THE DRAMA Instead of splurging on pre-made bows, Barbara suggests going to a fabric outlet and having some custom made. These pricey-looking ones created from four-inch-wide peau de soie are dramatically oversized: 16 inches wide with 22-inch tails. "If you can explain what you want, it's inexpensive to go to the experts," she says.



5. MAKE IT WELCOMING With its muted, monochromatic palette, traditional touches (like the toile-look wallpaper), unexpected elements (check out the exotic veneer of the console) and elegant accents (don't those sconces make you think of *Gatsby*?), the entryway feels "like an old, cozy Park Avenue hotel with an eclectic British undertone," says Barbara. What could be more welcoming than that?

6. PUT THE ELVES TO WORK Barbara's four-year-old son, Marshall, loves everything about Christmas, especially decorating. "He is very hands-on and opinionated about what's beautiful," says Barbara, "which is both a joy and a challenge."

7. THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX It doesn't always have to be in the shape of a house or a person – gingerbread is just as tasty in tree form. Their snowy candy-floss tops fit perfectly with the forest theme.

DESIGN, South Hill Interiors, southhillinteriors.com; Cole & Son **WALLPAPER,** Lee Jofa; Coconut Sugar PF 60 **FIREPLACE & MILLWORK PAINT,** Para Paints; **ARMCHAIR, SIDE TABLE, RUG,** Elte; custom **ROMAN SHADES,** tartan **GARLAND & BOW SEWING,** The Sewing Shop; **STAIR RUNNER,** Alexanian Carpet & Flooring; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Black Rooster Decor; **SCONCES,** Royal Lighting; **FIREPLACE INSERT**, Dimplex; antique brass **PLATE** (above fireplace), antique **NEWEL POST,** The Door Store; custom **MIRROR,** Canada Glass & Mirror Co.; Nordmann fir **CHRISTMAS TREE, GREENERY, URN,** Terra Greenhouses; **TREE TOPPER,** Pottery Barn; **RIBBON** (on presents), Mokuba.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

▲ Cole & Son Versailles 99/15061 **WALLPAPER** in Charcoal, $414 per double roll, through designers, Lee Jofa, leejofa.com.

◀ Medium Darlana **LANTERN** in Guilded Iron, $630 US, Circa Lighting, circalighting.com.

get the look

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◀ Proud Pheasant **FIGURINE,** $96 US per two-piece set, Wayfair, wayfair.com.

Evergreen **WREATH,** visit your local garden centre.

Dion **MIRROR** in G, $1,200 US, through designers, Worlds Away, worlds-away.com.

▶ Deconstructed French Napoleonic **ARMCHAIR** in Sand, from $1,195 US, Restoration Hardware, rh.com.

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natural *beauty*

This rustic Christmas look brings the bucolic beauty of a wooded setting indoors with a palette of snowy white, forest green, earthy brown and stone grey. Here are nine simple ways to let Mother Nature guide your natural holiday decorating scheme.

TEXT AMANDA ETTY

1

1. WINTER OVER
The centrepiece of the space, a white dining table, is decked out with candles, greenery and holiday decorations. Warmth and comfort come in the form of sheepskin throws, which are casually laid on the dining chairs and bench. It's a simple, seasonal touch that makes the room winter-ready.

PHOTOGRAPHY, LIVING4MEDIA

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2. GUIDING LIGHT

The open wooden staircase is aglow with votive candles and old-fashioned kerosene lanterns. (To ensure safety, opt for battery-powered versions.) Long-time companions of outdoor adventurers, the lights are the perfect accompaniments to this woodsy scheme.

3. TEXTURE TIME

A composition of textured serving pieces conveys a warm, welcoming vibe on the dining table. The set-up is ideal for an afternoon gathering with snacks and mugs of hot apple cider or tea.

4. FULL CIRCLES

Round bamboo trays are reinvented with a coat of white paint and then hung as wall art alongside reindeer and Christmas tree sculptures. The display resembles a snowy scene.

5. TREE'S COMPANY

A grouping of stubby potted evergreens is an unexpected alternative to a traditional Christmas tree. Left unadorned and placed in woven baskets, the trio enhances the room's organic feeling. The baskets were dipped in winter white paint for an on-trend look.

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6. EARTH TONES

A simple undecorated vignette feels quietly festive. This one is composed of clipped greenery and a few white-painted pinecones, as well as a reindeer figurine and a tiny vessel, all in a muted, earthy palette.

7. NUTS AND BOLTS

Seasonal foods evoke the spirit of the holidays. A small wooden bowl full of nuts reflects the natural scheme and offers a ready snack for drop-in guests. Fruits, such as clementines and pomegranates, would have a similar, albeit more colourful, effect.

8. BY THE BIRCH

A birch log is transformed into a rustic candelabra when drilled with holes to hold taper candles. To create this display, the split log was placed on a tray (cut side down) and then surrounded with pinecones and fir sprigs.

9. HANG TIME

Wreaths of various shapes, sizes and materials were hung on the wall using disparate trimmings – namely ribbon, twine and a strip of burlap – for a subtle Christmasy look. Similar to an informal gallery wall, the arrangement is asymmetrical and unfussy.

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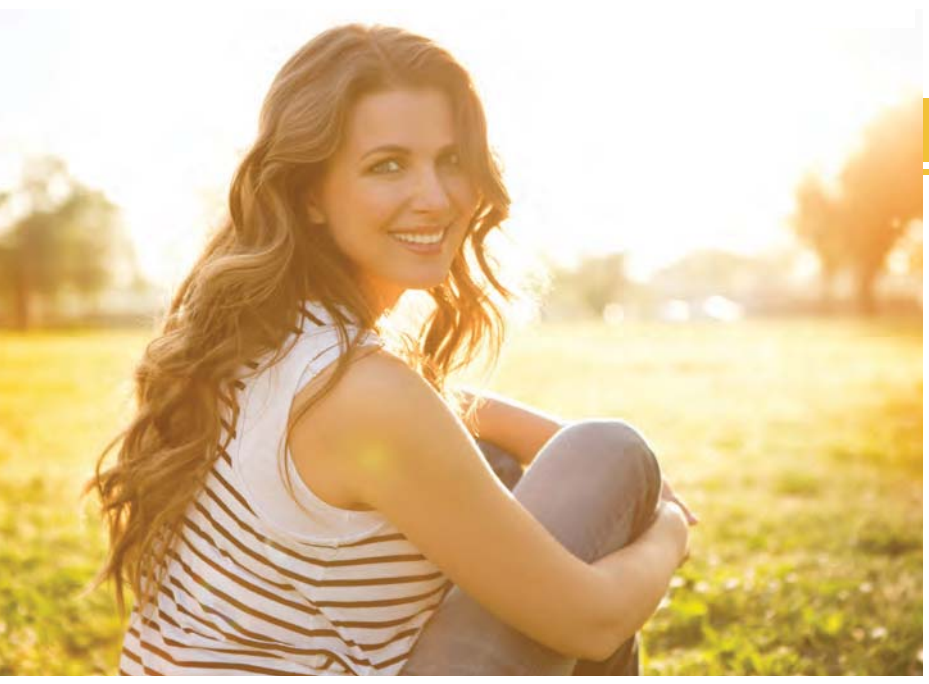

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DECEMBER 2015

PHOTOGRAPHY, JANIS NICOLAY

IN THE SPIRIT OF LIVING

Whether you're rockin' around the Christmas tree, quietly snuggling by the fire or revelling in old family traditions, there's one thing that holds true for every house party during the holiday season: Nothing feels more festive than the act of celebrating with the ones you love.

ENTERTAIN WITH STYLE

FINE TUNED

Beloved for his annual Christmas specials and his swoon-worthy song "Home" (plus so many others), Canadian icon Michael Bublé invites us into his Vancouver home as he gets ready to celebrate the season in style.

TEXT SARA CATION

PHOTOGRAPHY JANIS NICOLAY

STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT & STEPHANIE VOGLER

You'd be surprised to know that singer-songwriter Michael Bublé has only one of his awards on display at his house – and even that's a fluke. He brought it home from the office to show a friend and has yet to return it. What he takes more pride in is his meaningful collection of artwork, which includes a cartoon by Jann Arden and a painting by Tony Bennett. But one of his favourite pieces is a photograph of Chet Baker (hanging above the fireplace in his living room) by the great William Claxton, who shot the cover for one of Michael's albums.

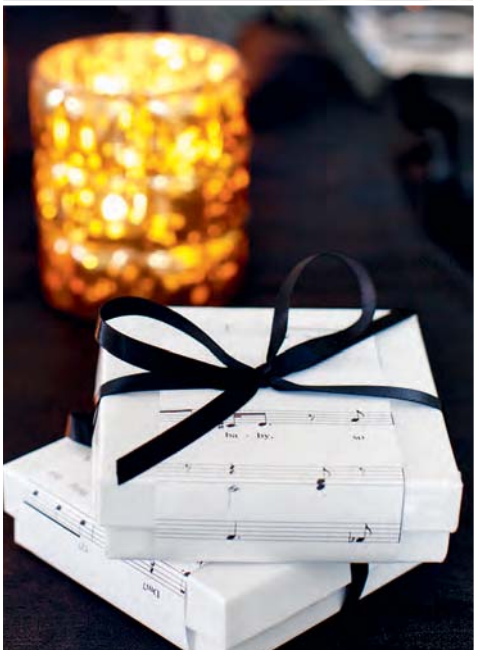
OTTOMAN, TRAY, TOSS CUSHION, PLUSH TOY, MAGNIFYING GLASS (on side table), **RIBBON** (throughout), The Cross Decor & Design; **GREENERY & FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS** (throughout), The Flower Factory; striped **GIFT WRAP** (throughout), Creative Bag; **COOKIES** (throughout), Butter Baked Goods.

ON-FIGURE STYLING, LUISA RINO, LIZBELL AGENCY; SWEATER, BLACK GOAT CASHMERE; DSQUARED2 COLLARED SHIRT & JEANS, HARRY ROSEN; JOHN VARVATOS SHOES, GRAVITYPOPE

"WE EAT TOO MUCH, WE DRINK TOO MUCH – IT'S LIKE AN OLD-SCHOOL HOLLYWOOD PARTY."

The house's elegant black, white and gold palette has a sophisticated charm that suits this debonair songster's vocal style. Above the tray table in the hallway is another piece from Michael's collection of artwork – a beautiful collage of broken records created by his brother-in-law.

SIDECHAIR, TABLE LAMP, footed **URN, VASE, TRAY, CANDLE HOLDERS,** The Cross Decor & Design.



If it were up to Michael Bublé's mom, her son's music – and *only* her son's music – would accompany their family Christmases. But since the Juno and Grammy award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter does, indeed, get a say, Bing Crosby and Elvis Presley are afforded lots of airtime, too. "We listen to everything from Mariah Carey to Boney M," says Michael, explaining the obvious: Music plays a huge part in his holidays.

And then there's the food. Michael has an Italian extended family and an Argentinian wife, so the smorgasbord often stretches from the traditional turkey and mashed potatoes to risotto and empanadas. "The whole house smells amazing," says Michael, who's always thrilled to host his family and friends under his Vancouver roof.

Once a year, this fabulous foursome – Christmas, music, family and food – comes together in a Bublé bash that lasts a couple of days and sees a flood of loved ones visiting from all over the world, including South Africa, Argentina, London and L.A. Upstairs, his music room plays host to a sweet piano-accompanied singalong. And downstairs? "Our basement turns into a sort of salsa club," says Michael. They move aside the arcade basketball, dome hockey and foosball games ("It's my 12-year-old-boy-style man cave," he says with a laugh) to accommodate the DJ and dance floor. "We eat too much, we drink too much – it's like an old-school Hollywood party."

The party is set to sound even better this holiday, thanks to last year's gift from Michael's wife, actor Luisana Lopilato: "When it was time to open my present, I could hear

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT A study in perfectly sophisticated place settings: black table linens paired with gold-toned flatware and subtly gold-edged dishware, topped with a simple handwritten place card and sprig of eucalyptus; with bold black and white striped gift wrap, sometimes a touch of cedar is all you need as a topper; tea lights cast a warm glow, softening the super-formal table setting; presents are personalized with a band of sheet music secured with a delicate satin bow; black and white sugar cookies echo the graphic palette; a voluminous cedar garland is filled out with eucalyptus leaves and geometric silver ornaments.

DINNER PLATES, FLATWARE, CANDLE HOLDERS, The Cross Decor & Design; **TABLE LINENS,** Atkinson's; **PLACE CARDS,** Post Calligraphy.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Bow-tied gingerbread Bublés by Butter Baked Goods are a classy take on the traditional cookies; delicate white peonies arranged in a dome shape look like a bowl of little white snowballs; black and white but far from boring, the gifts are elegantly wrapped; icing sugar-dusted chocolate cookies served up on a white star plate are festive yet understated, while underscoring the black and white scheme; instead of some classic jingle bells on display, you'll find pieces like this harmonica from Michael's music room, where he spends lots of time jamming with friends and writing songs; pretty presents nestled in a bowl of ball ornaments; a simple mirror stylishly frames a leafy green wreath; Michael brings home a stack of surprises.

STOOL, footed **VASES**, gold **BOOKS**, **CANDLE HOLDERS**, star **PLATES**, The Cross Decor & Design.

FOR BUTTER BAKED GOODS' DECADENT GINGERBREAD COOKIE RECIPE, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

her telling me that she loved me very much, adored having a child with me and was thrilled to be spending another Christmas with me…but I didn't understand why her voice was audible throughout the whole house," he says. "She'd had a Sonos sound system installed – and I had no idea. It was really special."

Although he admits it may sound cliché, Michael likes giving more than he does getting. "Whether it's compliments or gifts, receiving them can make me feel a bit embarrassed and shy," he says. So, in terms of showering his wife with presents, he's a pro romantic. "But I have a poor sense of occasion. I don't save gifts for Christmas or Valentine's Day," he explains. Case in point: When he's going to be out of town for a while, Michael will hide little notes around the house, tucking them in shoes, toiletries, drawers, even the diaper bag – "I want to remind her that I'm thinking of her," he says.

The couple, who has a two-year-old son named Noah, announced earlier this year that they're expecting another child, and Michael can't wait to share the holiday traditions that he enjoyed when he was young. "My dad and I would get the lights out of the attic and string them up outside, while my mom and sisters would decorate the inside. Then we'd gather around the Christmas tree and put the star topper on together: very Norman Rockwell," he says. "Of course that's the way I remember it – I'm sure I've forgotten the fighting and hair-pulling with my sisters." But that's all part of the magic, too.

Layers of neutrals are grounded with graphic hits of black and punched up with fresh greenery in the living room.

COFFEE TABLE, RUG, TOSS CUSHIONS, THROW, VASES, prism **SCULPTURES** (on coffee table), **TRAY** (on side table), **BOWL, BOOKS** (on coffee table), The Cross Decor & Design.

FOR SOURCES,
SEE OUR WORKBOOK

EASY PARTY TRICK

Incorporate what's meaningful to you – details like sheet music and small instruments are perfectly fitting for Michael's holiday decor.

THEORY SWEATER, HOLT RENFREW; COAT, BANANA REPUBLIC; DSQUARED2 JEANS & BOOTS, HARRY ROSEN

ENTERTAIN WITH STYLE

pop, fizz, clink

Decor maven Stephanie Vogler hosts her gal pals for the perfect pre-holiday party, complete with sweet treats and pink champagne.

TEXT BETH HITCHCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY JANIS NICOLAY

For Stephanie Vogler, the holiday season isn't dictated by the calendar — it's a state of mind that starts in July and doesn't end until January. That's because the president and creative director of popular Vancouver housewares store The Cross Decor & Design starts scouting gift shows in the summer and doesn't stop decking the halls until the last post-season sale in the new year.

So it's easy to understand why Stephanie takes a low-key approach to entertaining at home when the actual holidays roll around. "December is such a busy time with the store that it's hard for me to see friends," she says. That's why Stephanie decided to do things a little differently

BELOW Homeowner Stephanie Vogler (right) and close friend Rosie Daykin enjoy pre-party drinks in front of the gallery wall in the dining area.

DINING TABLE, *Gothic Rose* **ARTWORK** by Hugo Guinness, *Beach* **ARTWORK** by Jon Rou, *Palm Trees* **ARTWORK** by Zoë Pawlak, **CHANDELIER, TABLE RUNNER, TEAPOT,** domed **CAKE STAND, VASE, CHAMPAGNE FLUTES** (throughout), The Cross Decor & Design; **DINING CHAIRS,** Inform Interiors; **FLORALS & GREENERY** (throughout), Celsia Floral.

RIGHT An evergreen bough and a strand of twinkle lights add an instant festive note to this hallway vignette. In keeping with her fuss-free entertaining style, Stephanie set up a champagne station on the console so guests can help themselves.

Eskayel **WALLPAPER, CONSOLE, MIRROR, PEDESTAL BOWL, TRAY, BOWLS** (on tray), gold glitter deer **ORNAMENT,** The Cross Decor & Design.

FAR RIGHT The real tree in the living area was flocked white to give it a wintry look. "We don't often get snow here in Vancouver, so this gives us such a wonderful feeling," says Stephanie. Seasonal accessories like textured toss cushions and throws create a cozy vibe.

ARMCHAIR, COFFEE TABLE, antique **RUG, TOSS CUSHION, THROW, TRAY,** bird **FIGURINE,** small white **BOWL,** The Cross Decor & Design; Fraser fir **CHRISTMAS TREE, FLOCKING,** David Hunter Garden Centers.

OPPOSITE, TOP Sweet macarons in a pretty box are a delectable party favour.

MACARONS, Butter Baked Goods.

OPPOSITE, MIDDLE Mixing warm-toned metallics is a sophisticated way to introduce holiday sparkle. For the hallway console, Stephanie started with a copper tray and added whimsy with a gold glitter deer – one of The Cross's bestselling ornaments – and a gold-lined bowl for sugared almonds.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM Stephanie's two kids, Hudson, 9, and Emerson, 7, sneak in a treat before Mom's guests arrive.

COOKIE, Butter Baked Goods.

this year, by hosting a pre-holiday girls' night for six. "I thought we could get together and share some gift-giving ideas, like what's trending for kids," she explains. "It's meant to be very casual, which is how I like to do things."

Rather than spend the day in the kitchen cooking, Stephanie decided to stick with a stress-free recipe of bubbly and baked goods, courtesy of her long-time friend Rosie Daykin. As the founder of bakery Butter Baked Goods and author of the new cookbook *Butter Celebrates!*, Rosie volunteered to bring the main dessert – a sophisticated yule log-inspired chocolate cake with chocolate and hazelnut filling. "I like to think Rosie and I make a great hosting team," says Stephanie. "She bakes these beautiful desserts, and I provide pretty pedestals to present them on."

Along with Rosie's cake, Stephanie served up bite-sized sweets like sugared almonds in small bowls from her collection. Her "keep it simple" mantra also applied to beverages, with a help-yourself champagne station atop a console in the hallway. "I always serve pink champagne when my girlfriends come over," she says. "It puts everybody in a great mood."

MOËT

EASY PARTY TRICK

"Go with the flow. My copper garland broke, so I placed the beads across the dining table, and they looked pretty – it was a happy accident."

Given Stephanie's expert eye for styling, it's no accident that the pink champagne complements the fresh holiday palette of copper, rose gold and blush that blends seamlessly with the neutral scheme of the 1,200-square-foot Yaletown-neighbourhood condo she shares with her husband, John Pierce, and their two children, Hudson, 9, and Emerson, 7. With her all-white space as a blank canvas, Stephanie layered in holiday touches with a white flocked real tree and plenty of twinkle lights. Next, she added warm metallic accents via trays, ornaments and strands of beads. "I'm drawn to things with a sense of whimsy," says Stephanie of her holiday decor. "But I also love natural elements, so most of my ornaments are made from wool or feathers."

After a lively evening of catching up, comparing shopping lists and saying cheers to the season, Stephanie sent her guests home with a box of macarons from Rosie's bakery. "Macarons are such a treat because they're not something people would typically make for themselves," says Stephanie of the perfect party favour – a sweet reminder that they'll have to make room in their calendars for this new tradition next year.

LEFT Just add twinkle lights – that's Stephanie's philosophy for infusing her everyday decor with holiday spirit. "The strand of lights at the end of the hallway adds a nice surprise, and I just sort of tossed it over the mirror for an undone look," she says.

OTTOMAN, RUG, feather **HEADDRESS, TOSS CUSHIONS,** The Cross Decor & Design.

FAR LEFT Rosie's interpretation of the traditional yule log is a decadent chocolate cake with chocolate and hazelnut filling. "It pairs nicely with champagne," says Stephanie.

CAKE STAND, The Cross Decor & Design; **CAKE,** Butter Baked Goods.

OPPOSITE, TOP "I have a huge collection of tiny bowls, dishes and vases," says Stephanie. "During the holidays, I love to pull them out and fill them with sweets or pretty things." Here, on the living room coffee table, a glass vase filled with patinated ornaments sits alongside crisp white vessels.

OPPOSITE, MIDDLE On the coffee table, a tray displays a few mini ornaments that didn't make it onto the tree.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM Classic Christmas greenery mixed with white blooms makes for a chic centrepiece.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

ENTERTAIN WITH STYLE

MAKING *spirits bright*

"We have so much cedar and pine on the property that I went a bit nuts and even decorated the gate and fence," says homeowner and designer Sydney Carlaw. "It looks pretty and puts guests in a party mood before they enter the house."

OPPOSITE A wreath made from faux antlers complements the living room's serene colour scheme while parlaying subtle holiday charm.

DESIGN, Purity Designs, purity-designs.ca; **CONTRACTING,** Four Point Ventures; Cloud White CC-40 **CEILING & TRIM PAINT** (throughout), Escarpment CC-518 **BEAM PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **FLOORING** (throughout), Burritt Bros. Carpet & Floors; **SOFA, FLOOR LAMP,** Restoration Hardware; **COFFEE TABLE, WREATH,** The Cross Decor & Design; **RUG,** fur **TOSS CUSHION,** West Elm; knit **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Pottery Barn.

Nestled in the woods of Langley, B.C., this family home conjures up party-ready Christmas cheer with soft neutrals, natural accents and twinkling lights.

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY

RIGHT One corner of the kitchen serves as a bar area when the family entertains. Sydney likes to arrange glasses of wine here so guests can help themselves. A bowl of shiny Christmas baubles and star decorations on the wall introduce a festive feel to the spot.

WINGBACK CHAIR, Restoration Hardware; **SIDE TABLE,** HomeSense; **TOSS CUSHION,** Indigo; **THROW,** West Elm.

BOTTOM Sydney holds a present wrapped in paper she customized. "I love kraft paper and often use it as gift wrap. This year, I decided to stencil it for a change, but I also like it plain," she says.

Ice cream cake in December? You bet – especially if you're at the Carlaw residence. As anyone born in December knows, birthdays can be overshadowed by Christmas, but not here. Designer Sydney Carlaw, her husband, Vance, and older daughter, Jessica-Rae, 11, pull out all the stops to ensure that the youngest family member, Jolene, who turns nine on December 11, celebrates both occasions with gusto. "We have a special tradition, thanks to Jolene," says Sydney. "We invite friends over for a birthday-Christmas celebration, complete with her favourite ice cream cake." The venue, the family's 1,660-square-foot 1970s-built house in Langley, B.C., is less than half the size of their previous home, but they were happy to trade interior square footage for five secluded acres. "When we moved in last year, we wondered how we'd fit everyone in at our annual bash," says Sydney. "But the intimacy makes the party even more fun."

A noble fir Christmas tree has pride of place in the living room. "I can't emphasize enough how much I love the smell of a real tree in the house," says Sydney. "We serve eggnog, put on our favourite Harry Connick Jr. holiday album and begin the decorating." The ornaments, a mix of rough-hewn burlap baubles, glass balls and glittery stars, reflect the home's neutral palette and let the greenery pop in the pale space.

CHRISTMAS TREE, Churchland Christmas Tree Farm; **WING-BACK CHAIR,** Restoration Hardware; **BENCH,** The Cross Decor & Design; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** West Elm; **THROW,** Pottery Barn.

EASY PARTY TRICK

"Serve a signature drink, and ensure your guests have one in their hands as soon as they walk through the door."

"I have a rule of thumb for Christmas decor: IT SHOULD MATCH THE HOUSE."

Layers of soft colours and textures create a quiet energy in the dining room. For the holidays, Sydney softened the chairs with sheepskin throws and repurposed a white faux pine wreath as a centrepiece. The chandelier is crafted from whitewashed wooden spindles and plays on the home's rustic vibe.

DINING TABLE, Restoration Hardware; **DINING CHAIRS,** The Goods; **STOOLS, CHANDELIER,** Purity Designs; sheepskin **THROWS,** IKEA.

LEFT The original stone fireplace cozies up a corner of the kitchen. "This is such a lovely spot, it doesn't need very much embellishment," says Sydney, "just some twinkle lights and evergreen boughs." The built-in bench is a popular perch when the family entertains during the winter.

Heaven **ARTWORK** by Hugo Guinness, The Cross Decor & Design; faux fur **TOSS CUSHION,** faux fur **STOCKINGS,** HomeSense.

BELOW Sydney welcomes guests to her intimate country home.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

The intimacy and that welcoming, cozy vibe weren't something this house always offered. Its dark cedar walls, laminate floors, stucco ceilings and cramped kitchen didn't fulfill Sydney's desire for a relaxed space with a clean-lined country feel. So the designer embarked on a two-year renovation, which netted a fresh kitchen, as well as a backdrop of smooth ceilings, light-coloured cedar walls and wide-plank oak floors that make the small space feel expansive.

Sydney let the new interior dictate its holiday embellishment. "I have a rule of thumb for Christmas decor: It should match the house," she says. "Red and green and lots of glitz wouldn't work in our home, which has a pared-back, rough-hewn look." To play up the organic aesthetic and reference the sylvan setting, she took a restrained-rustic approach, using colours found in nature and evergreen boughs gathered from the property, complemented by pinecones and twinkle lights. Luckily, her stash of neutral holiday adornments collected over the years works perfectly with the scheme. "There's something so special about decorating with heirloom ornaments," says Sydney. And that's not the family's only ritual. "We also have a Christmas morning tradition where, before opening gifts, we prepare a tray of warm croissants and orange juice to take to enjoy by the tree." It's something they all look forward to in the weeks leading up to the holiday. In the meantime, December is all about family, friends and the birthday girl's ice cream cake.

WE HAVE AN *app* FOR THAT

RECIPES & FOOD STYLING CLAIRE STUBBS
PHOTOGRAPHY MAYA VISNYEI
PROP STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT

What's better than an evening soiree filled with delectable appetizers, good company and scintillating conversation? An evening when those appetizers (including cocktails!) have only four ingredients each, making them so super easy to prepare that you'll enjoy said company and conversation rather than spending all your time in the kitchen. We'll drink to that!

Butternut Squash **FLATBREAD** *With Spiced Honey*

SPOON, THE CROSS DECOR & DESIGN, THECROSSDESIGN.COM

Garlic Feta DIP

GARLIC FETA DIP

PREP & COOK TIME **15 MINUTES** | MAKES **2 CUPS**

10 oz sheep's milk feta cheese, crumbled
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
2 cloves garlic, minced
⅓ cup extra-virgin olive oil + more for drizzling

Place the feta, lemon zest, lemon juice and minced garlic in the bowl of a food processor fitted with a metal blade and process until smooth and combined, about 30 seconds. Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a spatula. With the motor running, slowly add the olive oil in a long stream and process until thoroughly blended.

Transfer the dip to a serving dish. Drizzle with a little extra olive oil and a generous grinding of fresh black pepper if desired. Serve with cucumber, radishes, olives, sliced summer squash and coloured carrot sticks for dipping.

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Chorizo Asiago PUFFS

CHORIZO ASIAGO PUFFS

PREP & COOK TIME **1 HOUR** | MAKES **16**

- 8 oz puff pastry
- 6 oz fresh chorizo or spicy Italian sausage, casings removed
- 2 oz grated Asiago cheese, divided
- ⅓ cup finely diced marinated artichoke hearts

Roll the puff pastry out on a lightly floured surface to form an 8" square about ¼" thick. Trim to straighten the edges. Cut the pastry into sixteen 2" squares and place on a rimmed baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Cover with waxed paper and refrigerate while the filling is prepared.

Add the sausage meat to a large bowl. Add ⅔ of the Asiago and all of the diced artichokes and mix by hand to combine. Shape into 16 walnut-sized balls and flatten each slightly. Place the remainder of the Asiago on a plate and roll each meatball in the cheese to coat. Place one meatball on top of each piece of pastry.

Bring the four corners of each pastry square together in the centre over the meatball to form a parcel with the edges almost touching. Press down to seal. Refrigerate the parcels for 20 minutes to firm.

Heat the oven to 400°F. Bake the puffs until the sausage is cooked through and the pastry is golden and puffed, about 25 minutes; serve warm.

KNIFE, THE CROSS DECOR & DESIGN, THECROSSDESIGN.COM

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GRILLED CAPRESE POLENTA CAKES

PREP & COOK TIME **1 HOUR** | MAKES **18**

- 1 pint red and yellow cherry tomatoes
- 1 18-oz tube polenta, cut into ½" slices
- ½ cup basil pesto
- 4 oz smoked mozzarella, sliced

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Slice the cherry tomatoes in half and place, cut side up, on a parchment paper-lined rimmed baking sheet. Bake until lightly roasted and just beginning to shrivel, about 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat a grill pan over medium heat. Place the polenta slices in the pan and grill until both sides are golden and nicely grill-marked, about 5 minutes on each side.

To assemble the cakes, spread each grilled polenta cake with a spoonful of pesto. Top each with a slice of mozzarella and a few of the roasted tomatoes. Return to the oven on a parchment paper-lined rimmed baking sheet until the cheese is melted, 10 to 12 minutes; garnish with a basil leaf before serving.

BUTTERNUT SQUASH FLATBREAD WITH SPICED HONEY

PREP & COOK TIME **45 MINUTES** | MAKES **16**

- 1 10-oz ball pizza dough
- 32 ⅛" slices peeled butternut squash, cut from the neck
- ¼ cup liquid honey
- 1 Thai chili, thinly sliced (or ½ tsp chili flakes)

Preheat the oven to 425°F. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the pizza dough into a thin 12" circle. Transfer the dough to a rimmed baking sheet, pulling and stretching with your hands to maintain the circular shape.

Top the dough with the squash slices. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until the dough is crisp and lightly browned.

Meanwhile, heat the honey and chili slices in a small saucepan over medium heat until the honey is thickened and syrupy, about 2 minutes.

Slice the flatbread into squares. Drizzle each with a bit of the spiced honey; serve warm.

SMOKED TROUT SPREAD

PREP & COOK TIME **15 MINUTES** | MAKES **1½ CUPS**

- ½ cup cream cheese, softened
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh chives
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 5 oz smoked trout

In a mixing bowl, stir together the cream cheese, chives, lemon zest and juice until well combined. Discard any skin and bones from the trout and flake with a fork. Add the trout to the cream cheese mixture, stirring until combined but still chunky.

Transfer the spread to a serving dish. Serve with baguette toasts, thin crisps and bread sticks.

Smoked Trout SPREAD

Grilled Caprese POLENTA CAKES

COPPER CUP, BOWL, CB2, CB2.CA; CUTTING BOARD, CRATE AND BARREL, CRATEANDBARREL.CA

PHILADELPHIA

Cheesecake as sweet as pie.

PECAN PIE CHEESECAKE

1-1/4 cups graham crumbs
5 Tbsp. butter, melted, divided
3 pkg (250 g each) *Philadelphia* Brick Cream Cheese, softened
1-1/4 cups packed brown sugar, divided
1 tsp. vanilla
6 eggs, divided
5 Tbsp. dark corn syrup
1 cup coarsely chopped pecans

HEAT oven to 350°F

MIX graham crumbs and 4 Tbsp. butter; press onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan.

BEAT cream cheese, 3/4 cup sugar and vanilla with mixer until blended. Add 3 eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each, until just blended. Pour over crust.

BAKE 30 min. Meanwhile, mix remaining sugar and butter until blended. Beat in remaining eggs and corn syrup; stir in nuts. Remove cheesecake from oven; gently spoon nut mixture over cheesecake. Return to oven.

BAKE 40 min. or until nut mixture is set. Cool completely. Refrigerate at least 4 hours.

Find the how-to video and discover more delicious recipes at **PhillyCanada.com**

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LEMON VODKA

PREP & COOK TIME **1 MONTH** | MAKES **750 ML**

6 lemons*
750 ml vodka

Wash the lemons with dish soap or fruit spray and rinse thoroughly to remove any residue. Dry with a clean tea towel. Using a sharp knife or vegetable peeler, carefully remove the peel from the lemons, taking as little of the bitter white pith as possible. Reserve the fruit for another use. Place the peel in a clean lidded jar and pour the vodka over the zest to cover. Close the lid and leave in a cool dark place for 30 days to infuse.

*Replace the lemons with mandarin oranges to make Mandarin Vodka.

TUMBLER, CB2, CB2.CA; COPPER TAG, LEE VALLEY TOOLS, LEEVALLEY.COM

LIMONCELLO DROP

2 oz Lemon Vodka
1½ oz freshly squeezed lemon juice
½ oz simple syrup
½ egg white (optional)

Place all the ingredients in a cocktail shaker full of ice. Shake vigorously for about 1 minute and strain into a chilled champagne coupe. To make a Limoncello Fizz, add 3 ounces of prosecco or sparkling Italian lemon soda.

ORANGE BLOSSOM

3 oz freshly squeezed mandarin juice
2 oz Mandarin Vodka
½ oz liquid honey

Place all the ingredients in a cocktail shaker full of ice. Shake vigorously for about 1 minute and strain into a chilled champagne coupe. To make an Orange Blossom Fizz, add 3 ounces of spicy ginger beer.

feel All-Bran new*

Fibre-Rich Chili Recipe

Ingredients

1 lb lean ground beef
1 large onion
2 medium green peppers
1 can tomatoes
1 can tomato sauce
4 tsp chili powder
1/4 tsp garlic powder
1/4 tsp salt
1/8 tsp pepper
1 can red kidney beans
1 cup All-Bran Buds or All-Bran Original* cereal*

Directions

In a large, heavy saucepan, cook beef with onion and green pepper until meat is brown, stirring frequently. Drain off any fat. Break tomatoes into chunks and add to saucepan. Stir in tomato sauce, chili powder, garlic powder, salt and pepper until well mixed. Stir in beans and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in All-Bran Buds or All-Bran Original* cereal and cook for 10 minutes longer, stirring frequently.*

See what else is in the box at allbran.ca

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Gingerbread Cookie Recipe FROM PAGE 84

Rosie Daykin of Butter Baked Goods whipped up some gingerbread cookies inspired by Canadian music icon Michael Bublé. Here, she shares the recipe from her new cookbook, *Butter Celebrates!*

GINGERBREAD GUYS

MAKES **18 COOKIES**

Cookies

- ½ cup fancy molasses
- ⅓ cup dark brown sugar
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ginger
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ¾ cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 2 eggs
- 3¾ cups all-purpose flour

Toppings

- White and black royal icing
- 36 Smarties or M&M's

Pre-heat the oven to 350°F. In a double boiler over medium heat, or in a heat-proof bowl set over a pot of simmering water, combine and stir the molasses, sugars, cinnamon and ginger. When the sugars have melted, add in the baking soda and stir. Once the mixture bubbles up, remove the pot from the heat and set aside.

Meanwhile, place the butter in a stand mixer bowl fitted with a paddle attachment and slowly pour the warm molasses mixture over the butter. With the machine running on medium speed, mix until the butter has completely melted and the mixture has cooled slightly. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Scrape down the sides of the bowl.

With the mixer running on low speed, slowly add the flour until it's fully combined. Then lift the dough from the bowl and place it on a well-floured work surface. Use a rolling pin to roll out the dough to about ¼" thick.

Use a 5" gingerbread man cookie cutter to cut your cookies. Carefully arrange them, about 1" apart, onto two parchment paper-lined baking sheets. You will need to combine the scraps and re-roll the dough several times to use it all up.

Bake in the oven until the centre of the cookies are still slightly soft to the touch, about 10 minutes. If you prefer your gingerbread crunchy, bake them for a few minutes longer. Then transfer the cookies onto wire racks and allow them to cool completely before decorating. Meanwhile, spoon the royal icing into piping bags fitted with plain tips, and let the fun begin.

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***through designers**

5 2

A sophisticated Hanukkah tablescape gets its glow from blue and metallic accents like dreidels and gelt.

PHOTOGRAPHY DONNA GRIFFITH

17 2

When it comes to holiday decor, less is often more. Here, a simple wreath pops in a neutral space.

PHOTOGRAPHY STACEY VAN BERKEL

64 23

Forget eggnog – serve hot cocoa in Mason jars instead. Don't skimp on marshmallows, either!

PHOTOGRAPHY JAMIE LAUREN

design pinspiration

We round up our favourite holiday entertaining images from our Pinterest boards for extra inspiration.

49 11

Paper-star name tags attached to taper candles are an inventive alternative to standard place cards.

PHOTOGRAPHY STACEY VAN BERKEL

23 3

A modern black and white dining room together with traditional Christmas hues is a magical combination.

PHOTOGRAPHY VIRGINIA MACDONALD

12 4

As far as place settings go, it doesn't get more glam than personalized plates set beside glitzy flatware.

PHOTOGRAPHY JAMIE LAUREN

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